



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE ARTHUR J. O'NEILL
SIXTY-NINTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM 4200
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591
HOME: (203) 264-3951
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8700
TOLL FREE: 1-800-842-1423
E-MAIL: Arthur.ONeill@housegop.ct.gov

RANKING MEMBER
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
BANKS COMMITTEE
REGULATIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE

Testimony Regarding Abolition of the Connecticut Law Review

Commission

Prepared for Rep. Arthur O'Neill

by University of Connecticut Legal Intern: Jason Goodson

My name is Arthur J. O'Neill and I am the Chairman of the Law Revision Commission.

Bill number HB 6373, which proposes to repeal certain obsolete statutes, would eliminate an efficient and valuable asset to the Connecticut Legislature, which is the Law Revision Commission. The Law Revision Commission was created to serve the purpose of providing legal expertise and knowledge to the state legislature. The Law Revision Commission became defunded in 2002-03, during the last state budget crunch. The staff was eliminated and the Legislative Commissioners Office was expected to provide assistance to the Law Revision

Commission, to the extent that the Legislative Commissioners Office had the time and personal available.

The Law Revision Commission however, still provides assistance to the state legislative with minimal amount of support from the Legislative Commissioners Office. The Law Revision Commission also has no operating expenses, therefore to abolish this commission due to obsolete or budget constraints would be moot. The Law Revision Commission relies primarily on the time and effort of legal experts and attorneys in various fields of law who provide assistance in the form of legal research, document creation, and legal knowledge that can cost professional around 200 dollars an hour. With 15 members working 3 hours a week that is a total of roughly 9,000 dollars a week of free legal work the Law Revision Commission is utilizing without paying any of these cost.

The statute that created the Law Revision Commission, unlike many other commissions, also provides the opportunity for the commission to receive grants, private funding, and other financial support outside of the state government. While the Law Revision Commission has not recently sought grant funding, numerous opportunities in the future may be available to obtain grants from the federal government or private sources to support potential projects. The Law Revision Commission in prior years has conducted studies to enable the state to adopt federal child support which created millions of dollars of revenue for the state of Connecticut. The Law Revision Commission is currently working on an study of the Common Interest Ownership Act. This is conducted by many knowledgeable experts in condominium law who are meeting and gathering information to put forth legislative measures which do not cost the state any money.

In conclusion, the definition of obsolete is something which is no longer active or in use. However, that is certainly not the case of the Law Revision Commission. The Law Revision

Commission is currently active and putting with no financial burden to the state. It conducts systematic and productive meetings that utilize only surplus minimal resources. These meetings produce vital legal knowledge for the state legislature and only meet in Legislative meeting rooms which are not scheduled to be utilized at the time of their meetings.

The Law Revision Commission can become a revenue source for the state, through the legal advice it provides and outside funding it can receive on its own. The Law Revision Commission should not be abolished because it is not obsolete.